

Dirty Dreams Theatre Party

CSZ is planning a theatre party for the musical *Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid* at Josie's Cabaret, 16th and Market streets, December 1 at 8 pm. Members and their guests may reserve tickets at the discounted group rate of \$10 by calling the office by noon, Monday, November 25.

A potluck dinner is being planned before the theatre in the community room at 345 Church St., at 6 pm, December 1. Please bring some food to share. (A barbecue will be available.)

Written and directed by CSZ member Henry Mach (who delivered our Yom Kippur morning sermon this year), *Dirty Dreams* won the 1991 Cable Car Award for Outstanding Theatre.

Steve Warren in the *Sentinel* called this production "tuneful, upbeat and sex-positive," stating that "I heard sobbing on my right, laughter on my left and applause all around. The audience was relating like crazy."

Alternately funny, sexy, irreverent and moving, the show was described by the author as "90 minutes worth of everything we think of in the three minutes before we're about to get our HIV-test results."

As unlikely as that sounds as the basis for a musical hit, the original production in 1990 ran for three months at Theatre Rhinoceros, becoming one of the biggest financial successes in Rhino's 14-year history.

The revival at Josie's Cabaret, which allowed Mach and his collaborator, New York composer Paul Katz, to cut, add and revise parts of the show, ran for six weeks, lauded by the *Bay Area Reporter* as "... even more moving than the original version." It is returning for just seven performances, starting November 29, before going on to other cities.

The theatre party will be a unique opportunity to share a special theatrical event with our Sha'ar Zahav community. Space is limited, so call early.



A ticklish moment for *Dirty Dreams* writer/director Henry Mach as the cast gangs up on him; (l. to r.) Buddy Montgomery, Joseph Taro, Ron Johnson.

PHOTO BY STEVE SAVAGE

1991 Blood Drive a Success

What do "Dances with Wolves," "Yentl," "Rhapsody in Blue," and the 1985 Michigan Womyn's Festival have in common? Well, on Saturday, September 14, 17 Sha'ar Zahavniks and friends donated blood at the Irwin Memorial Blood Bank and had the opportunity to choose a musical accompaniment (à la headsets) during the donor-friendly process. Uh oh, you meant to come by and you forgot. Don't fret, you may stop by at any blood collection center in San Francisco, Marin, or Sonoma counties and designate the Sha'ar Zahav account (sorry, but the East and South Bay blood banks are not part of the Irwin system; however, credits can be issued to individuals using blood in these areas). Each donor also received a red rose from Showcase Flowers (located at the Downtown Center Garage, 771-8323) for their gift of life.

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Chanukah Hop

Remember the sock hops you went to when you were in school? Or maybe you're too young and always wished you could have gone to one. Well, grease up your duck-tail and get out your poodle skirts. Sha'ar Zahav's annual Chanukah party is just around the corner. This year's party will be held on Saturday, December 7 in San Francisco at the Millberry Union on the UCSF campus, 500 Parnassus.

This year's party will feature Sha'ar Zahav's traditional Chanukah activities: a raffle with a \$500 grand prize, a silent auction, food for everyone, and a candle lighting. We will also have dancing and grand merriment.

Enclosed with this edition of the *Forward* are tickets for this year's raffle. Your help selling them will make this year's party—one of CSZ's major annual fundraisers—a major success.

Perhaps you have a service or gift you would like to donate to the silent auction. Donated items in the past have included dinners at local restaurants, quiet intimate dinners at home, a loaf of challah delivered every month to your home, chicken soup, professional services, and artwork, to name only a few. If you would like to donate an item to the silent auction, please contact the

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Shabbat Dinner for HIV+ CSZ Members

CSZ members who are HIV-positive, or who have ARC or AIDS, and their partners, are invited to a catered Shabbat dinner with Rabbi Kahn at the synagogue on Friday evening, November 8 at 6:30 pm in the library. This is an opportunity for fellowship, informal discussion and a Shabbat meal together. Please RSVP to the office if you would like to attend; you need not give your name if you do not wish. Call Rabbi Kahn at the office if you have questions or need transportation assistance.

Volunteer, Socialize, Support

Friends often ask me these days what it's like being president of Sha'ar Zahav. Believe it or not, what I usually say is that I am enjoying it a lot. So far the work, while time consuming, is not overwhelming, and I am seeing slow, but steady progress in enacting some of my personal goals as well as goals from the Long Range Plan. I particularly like meeting members and friends and connecting faces to names that I have seen on lists or heard of from other people. Chairing board meetings with the Va'ad has been far less scary than I thought. However, I must confess that one task I do not relish is writing this column every month. Should I be newsy, reflective, personal, organizational, inspiring, factual? I've decided that I'll sit down at the computer and see what comes out—probably a little of everything. I'll try to keep our readers up on what's happening, as well as express my feelings about what's important and what I'm trying to accomplish. (By the end of two years, I might have it all figured out.)

Volunteerism: One of the themes I spoke of in my inaugural remarks was the importance of volunteerism and how I have grappled with striking a balance between the synagogue's asking of us and the synagogue's giving back to us. There are always opportunities for members to volunteer. Our Chanukah party is in just about a month. We will need people to bake latkes, decorate, set up and clean up, drive people who may not be able to get there on their own, or contribute an item or service for our auction. If a Chanukah coordinator calls, don't immediately say "no"—parties provide wonderful opportunities to both contribute to the success of our organization and to meet other people in a relaxed and informal setting.

I strongly recognize that people who volunteer deserve and need our appreciation. If you've been reading the *Forward* lately, you have noticed our Volunteer-of-the-Month column. Each month we are trying to highlight the volunteer efforts of one or two members who have consistently worked hard. A small recompense for hard work, it is a way to say "thank you." Soon we will be starting to honor each of our committees with a special synagogue-sponsored

oneg. We plan to have these perhaps every other month and will take the time to explain what the committee does and honor all of the committee members. The first committee to be so honored will be Bikkur Cholim on November 15. Come that evening to find out what this very important committee does, to meet the members, or even to join.

From time to time, the synagogue will honor special individuals for long-time service. On December 6, we will have an oneg honoring Dana Vinicoff for her many years as leader of the Ensemble. If you feel someone should be specially honored, give me a call.

Socializing: Another area I'm very concerned with is providing opportunities for members to meet each other and feel increasingly in touch with and welcomed by the leadership. In this month's *Forward*, you will find an invitation to a presidential tea at my home. I don't have an agenda, other than to meet as many of you as I can. If you feel like talking about synagogue concerns or your particular needs, that's fine; if you'd rather schmooze about the weather, politics, or cooking, that's o.k. too. Spending a few cozy hours on a late fall afternoon by a crackling fire should be very pleasant, so I hope many of you will drop in.

Anyone who has any ideas for other social events such as potluck dinners, theater parties, informal dances, outings to art exhibits, and so on, should let me or Tiela Chalmers (our program vice president) know. We'll see if the event is possible and, if so, we'll try to get it organized. Better yet, we'll help *you* organize it!

Support: The past few months have been very difficult for many of our members. In addition to the political setback that the lesbian and gay community has experienced, since the beginning of July we have lost eight members, including a Va'ad member, Jeffrey Miller. I personally have two very dear friends who are quite ill, and I often feel emotionally drained, burdened with responsibility, and guilty for not doing enough. I always appreciate the personal support that my friends at Sha'ar Zahav offer me, as well as the contemplative peacefulness of our Shabbat services. We are

all experiencing stress and grief in our lives, so let us reach out to our friends at Sha'ar Zahav and find ways to tap into the friendliness, the *haimishness*, and the joy inherent in our synagogue community to sustain us through these difficult times.

Classifieds

HOUSEMATE NEEDED (M/F) by CSZ member, 45 y.o., grad student, mature, easy to get along with. Seeking right person to share very nice house in Bernal Heights. Two rooms with separate bathroom. Modern kitchen, W/D. Approximately \$600 + util. Call Arthur, 550-0307.

The Jewish Gaily Forward is published by Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, (415) 861-6932. Permission to reproduce material is freely given, and credit would be appreciated.

Members of the Congregation receive the *Forward*. For a donation of \$18/year, non-members will receive the *Forward*.

All newsletter copy should be typed, double-spaced and is due no later than the date of the Va'ad meeting. It should be sent to the synagogue office, marked to the attention of the *Forward*. All material is subject to editing; material will not be returned.

Members of the Newsletter Committee are Howard Blechman, chair, Matthew Abergel, Leonard Brill, Ellen Murland, Irene Ogus, Alita Rosenfeld, and Lane Schickler (general editorial and production), Michael Bettinger (photographer), Rick Wilson (advertising coordinator), Alex Ingersoll, Merry Luskin, Sam Thal, Lin Turner, Eli Weinstein and Ron Wilmot (distribution). The *Forward* is typeset by David Lester, Mouse Type Inc., and printed by Lou Greene.

Display Ads are \$15 per column inch for non-members and \$10 per column inch for members, with discounts available for size and frequency. Ads should be camera ready; any ads that require typesetting, camera and/or artwork will be subject to a one-time production charge.

Classified Ads are \$5 for up to 20 words, plus \$1 for each 10 additional words. No personals accepted.

Payment must accompany ad and should be sent to Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 220 Danvers at Caselli, San Francisco, California 94114, marked attention *Forward* advertising. The advertising deadline is the second Monday of the month. The *Forward* reserves the right to reject any ad for reasons of taste.

Breast Cancer Program

The Bikkur Cholim Committee is excited to announce the second in its quarterly 1991-92 Health Issues Series. Please join us on November 15 following the service and kiddush, when the subject will be breast cancer.

We are pleased to have as our speaker, Mt. Zion Hospital's (and Sha'ar Zahav member) Debbie Hamolsky. Debbie is a clinical nurse specialist in oncology and AIDS. She will tell us about the latest in research and treatment of this epidemic disease. We will learn of the resources available in our community, self-examination tips as well as volunteer opportunities to support those in need.

—Lane Schickler

Bridges Not Crossed

Bridges, a new newsletter that will provide information and details on activities and programs for interfaith couples and families, will be available in early November, just in time for the December holidays.

Created and published by the Interfaith Council of the Jewish Community Federation, *Bridges* will offer relevant articles about common issues and concerns, a community-wide calendar and other feature material. The first edition will focus on the "December Dilemma"—the challenges presented by the coinciding holidays of Christmas and Chanukah.

The newsletter will be printed three times a year and is free. To receive *Bridges*, call Nancy Talmer at the JCF at (415) 777-0411 ext. 217.

Condolences

To **Mark Pressler** on the death of his beloved friend, Jeffrey Miller.

To **Sherie Koshover** on the death of her father, Gilbert Koshover.

To **Mike Rankin** on the death of his friend, Douglass Trenery.

To **Janis Portal** on the death of her great aunt, Lucy Koch.

To **Henry Mach** on the death of his friend, Joe Di Sabato.

To **Jody Reiss** on the death of her uncle, Don Sela.



Committee member Carolyn Pines (l.), and Membership Committee Chair Judy Schwartz, staffing the CSZ table at the "Not-Just-for-Newcomers" Fair at the Jewish Community Center in San Francisco. Several CSZ cookbooks were sold to hungry browsers and several eyebrows were raised among those seeking information about our synagogue. The hot dogs and chocolate egg creams (not exactly a kosher combination!) helped make the day a success. PHOTO BY JENNY HELBRAUN

Holocaust Exhibition

A Day in the Warsaw Ghetto: A Birthday Trip in Hell, a graphic and dramatic documentation of the horror of life in the Warsaw Ghetto during WWII, opens at the Jewish Museum of San Francisco on November 7. Also opening is *A Lifetime of Remembering*, an adjunct exhibition organized by the museum, which offers historical context for the photographs as well as a forum where visitors can discuss the powerful content and explore exhibition themes through a variety of media and source material.

Both exhibitions will run through December 6. The Jewish Museum of San Francisco is located at 121 Steuart St. Special extended hours have been added for this exhibition. The museum will be open Tuesday, Thursday and Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm, Wednesday from 10 am to 8:30 pm, and Friday 10 am to 4 pm. For specific program information, call (415) 543-8880.

Yizkor Elohim

*We mourn the recent deaths
of our members*

Jeffrey Miller, October 6
Duane Puryear, October 8

New Members

The Membership Committee is pleased to announce that our congregation gained several new members and friends in October. A warm welcome to the latest people to join our family:

Leslie Caplan and Maia Ettinger
Bernard Chodin and Lois Scott and
Leva Marie Choden

We're grateful to see our congregation grow. It is up to all of us to help our new members feel welcome as they become active participants in our community.

Oneg Sponsors

During October, onegs were sponsored by the following generous people:

- 10/4 Robert Serman, commemorating the yahrzeit of his mother, Jeanne Serman
- 10/11 Louise Fischer, in honor of the visit of her parents, David and Iris
- 10/25 Hillel Graduate Outreach program and Berkeley Hillel (Pa'anayim).

All you have to do to sponsor an oneg is to think of the occasion and contact the synagogue office (861-6932). The cost of sponsoring an oneg is \$50. You can also provide the food, flowers, etc. for a more personal touch.

Life-Threatening Illnesses

In the traditional liturgy for Shabbat morning, special benedictions are recited immediately after the Torah is read. Locating the blessings at this place in the service serves two different purposes. On the one hand, it "personalizes" the blessing—for health, family or other concerns—to the person who has come up to the Torah for an *aliyah*. On the other hand, it is the time when the greatest number of worshippers are present to participate in the hearing and affirmation of the prayer. Thus, a person whose family member is ill might be called to the Torah for an *aliyah* and, immediately after, have the *mi sheberach* prayer recited on behalf of the loved one.

In our congregation at all times, many people have loved ones who are ill. Ours is a synagogue with HIV. Beginning in early 1986, we began to say the *mi sheberach* prayer at each one of our services. However, we did not pray the traditional text exactly as it is found in other prayerbooks. Because of the times we are living in, we are not able to say an individual prayer on behalf of each person who is sick. We therefore rewrote the prayer in the plural, turning our hearts and prayers toward "all who are sick." Wishing to include the full range of HIV disease, we asked for God's blessing on "all who have been touched by AIDS and related illness." Finally, we felt that the traditional text asking for a rapid recovery, "May the Holy One quickly send him/her a complete healing, a healing of body and a healing of spirit ...," is inappropriate when, at any time, many of those who are ill are preparing for death and physical recovery is no longer possible. We therefore changed the original prayer's individual hope to a collective goal which more closely reflects the theology of our community: "May they and we soon know a time of complete healing, a healing of the body and a healing of the spirit, and let us say: Amen." (Of course, there is no single "theology of our community." The members of the Ritual Committee could not, in fact, agree on a single text of the revised *mi sheberach* and therefore our *siddur* includes two!)

After about two years of including this prayer in every service, we changed

our practice again. Until this point, individual names were announced by the service leader if informed in advance. At my suggestion, we began to pause and invite everyone in the sanctuary to say "out loud or in your heart" the names of the people who are in our prayers. This custom has become an important and powerful part of our communal spiritual life. It was about this time that we reprinted our *siddurim* and included the two versions of the English, plus a now rarely used original-to-CSZ Hebrew translation, in the form then in use. In recent months, I have been encouraging the congregation not all to call out at once, but instead to slow down and listen to one another as we express our prayers towards the names of the people we care for.

Recently, we have made another change in our practice. Although we sought to be inclusive in our language, the *mi sheberach* as it now reads does not fully acknowledge the many life-threatening illnesses people in our congregation and families are living with—from cancer to diabetes to lupus. Immersed as we are in one epidemic, many of us are unaware of the epidemic of breast cancer among women. Two of our members have died of this disease and many others are threatened by it.

In our continuing effort to make CSZ's liturgy reflect the truth of all of our lives, the Ritual Committee recently resolved to change the language of our *mi sheberach* prayer now to read "bless ... all who have been touched by AIDS and all life-threatening illness." We decided not to list any other specific illnesses at this time but instead to use the inclusive *all life-threatening illness*. Although we will not be changing the printed text until our next revision of the prayerbook, service leaders will say the blessing using this corrected version.

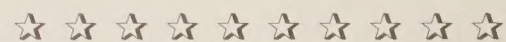
God, reveal Your compassion upon all who are ill and comfort them. Speedily and soon, let us all see together a day of complete healing, a healing of body and a healing of spirit, and let us say: Amen.

—Rabbi Yoel Kahn



Birthdays

- 1 Steven M. Polsky
- 2 Pamela Erwin
- 3 Jordan Imani Hauer-Laurencin
- 3 Robin Rosenbaum
- 5 Frank M.
- 6 Tanya Aviv Adler
- 8 Misha Cohen
- 8 Tova Alice Green
- 9 Neil Sechan
- 12 Mark Pressler
- 13 Bobby Harris
- 13 Zachary Miller
- 14 Jonathan Goldman
- 17 Asher Whittle Zucker
- 18 Joel Levine
- 22 John Everett Hanely
- 23 Randall Schiller
- 23 Arlene Hoffman
- 24 Joshua Schechtel
- 26 Cheri A. Pies
- 26 Allan Blumenfeld
- 26 Michael Harris
- 27 Laura Weil
- 28 Judy Schwartz
- 28 Beatrice Lieberman
- 28 Alison Cohen
- 29 Harold Podgur
- 29 Mark B. Vogel
- 29 Tahg Khorin Adler



Naches

Mazel tov to **Amy Weston and Bonnie Bishop**, whose son, Benjamin Bishop Weston, was born on July 23 and entered the Covenant and was named on October 13.

Mazel tov to **Lawrence Hyman**, who has won a fellowship from the Jewish Center for Culture and Creativity to travel to Jerusalem for the month of December to study, create and talk with intellectuals and artists from Israel, North America and Russia.

Mazel tov to **Aaron and Eric Cooper-Keitel**, who have legally adopted their son, Shawn Cooper-Keitel. Shawn formally converted to Judaism in a ceremony of welcome on September 29.

ATTENTION CSZ MEMBERS

Do your part!
Please sell
the enclosed
Chanukah
raffles!



November Volunteer Honorees: Florence & Steve Nacamulli

It doesn't take long to get to know our November volunteer honorees, Florence and Steve Nacamulli. One is immediately struck by their warmth, compassion, social conscience, active interest in others and, most of all, their sense of humor. These qualities have served them well in their five-year involvement with Sha'ar Zahav and in the contributions they have made.

Florence spent her early days in Lakewood, New Jersey though she and Steve were both raised in New York City. Both first generation Americans, Steve's family was from Italy and Florence's from Russia. Meeting 30 years ago, friends for years and domestic partners since 1970, they married in 1979.



Steve Nacamulli

The Nacamullis came to San Francisco in 1971 for a long weekend and never left. They moved to Sonoma County in 1976, but returned to San Francisco in 1984. Shortly thereafter they attended a Sha'ar Zahav Kol Nidre service with Steve's brother and sister-in-law, Bob and Lorraine. They had heard that Sha'ar Zahav was "Reconservadox" and were intrigued. That service led to all the Nacamullis joining the congregation.

"You know the attachment you feel when you connect with CSZ," Florence says. Steve continues, "It was the first congregation where I felt welcomed as an Italian Jew." Joining as a non-gay married couple has never felt unusual as they have felt that the overriding concern at CSZ was inclusion and not exclusion. Steve described CSZ as "my synagogue and not my mother's."

One of the first people they met was Paul Cohen who introduced himself and made them feel at home. Paul impressed them with the myriad of activities in which CSZ was involved. They immediately joined the Bikkur Cholim Committee and continue as members of that committee to this day. Florence in particular was attracted by the fact that the committee visited nursing homes during Jewish holidays and led services at the Jewish Home for the Aged every three months. Florence now coordinates

the Jewish Holiday nursing home visits. Steve describes his role as a "shlepper," using his truck to transport whenever necessary. For the last three years, Steve and Florence have coordinated the Yom Kippur AIDS Food Bank collections. They've also shlepped for the potlucks following our Christmas and Easter Project Open Hand efforts in which CSZ members relieve regular Open Hand volunteers by preparing and delivering meals to PWAs.

Having lost significant numbers of their families in World War II, they appreciate CSZ's leadership role and outreach activities in trying to end persecution and discrimination of any kind in our community. Their role as activists is not recent. Steve



Florence Nacamulli

says, "I've never been mainstream." Active in the Vietnam anti-war movement, Steve says he's proud that he "hasn't been arrested too often." Their volunteerism at CSZ, they say, is not selfless. "The pleasure exceeds what we give and we are very proud to represent the synagogue." Florence tells an exemplary story of a particular Passover visit to Hillhaven nursing home. One of the residents they visited was 104 years old, frail and unresponsive. Florence, determined to bring the holiday into her life, began singing "Dayeinu." The resident's eyes lit up and she joined the group in song.

Though Florence describes herself as

"driven" (Steve says she's a workaholic), they both find time to volunteer. Those who know them know this is a sacrifice of their limited free time—both are self-employed. Florence is proud of her own bookkeeping service which specializes in working with non-profit organizations. Steve's business specializes in antique toys and collectibles. His family has been in the antique business for generations. He describes himself as the present "Pee Wee King of California" as evidenced by the extent of Pee Wee Herman merchandise in his basement. Florence says Steve is great at the antique business because "he knows what it is to be an antique." Steve rebuts, "When we met 30 years ago, Florence was 16 and I was 3."

So what are their plans for the future? They are beginning to think of retirement, possibly living in Oregon at the shore, sitting on rocking chairs. It's hard to think of them sitting for too long but it would be a well-deserved rest!

—Lane Schickler

Committee Redux

The revitalized Social Action Committee, under the leadership of Susan Foster, will have its first meeting on Tuesday, November 19, at 7 pm at the synagogue. The purpose of this first meeting will be to identify priorities and to set up working groups for the coming months. Social action and social justice have always been a priority of Reform Judaism and this synagogue. Please join us as we enter a new period of activism as a community of faith.

Jeffrey Miller

November 30, 1953–October 6, 1991

Jeffrey Miller, Va'ad member, former building chair, and project coordinator for CSZ died from complications due to AIDS, Sunday, October 6.

Jeffrey will be remembered by most as they look around the synagogue and feel his presence in ... the guard pipes around the heater he installed, the warning signs he hung, the mail closet door which came off its track at least twice a month (that he put back on each time as if it was the first), and many other building projects he so lovingly accomplished.

A quiet man with strong opinions which he voiced whenever necessary, he will be missed by his beloved friend Mark, his parents Bernie and Betty Miller, and all who knew and loved him.

May his memory be for a blessing.

October Va'ad Report

Rabbi Kahn began by citing the Talmudic injunction, "Do not separate from the community."—an admonition he had found particularly apt the past week. On the previous Sunday, Rabbi Kahn had led three life-cycle events: an immersion in a mikveh, a baby-naming, and Jeffrey Miller's memorial service. At each of these ceremonies, Rabbi Kahn was struck with the spiritual power of the community and the support it gives to him and to all who are a part of it. Support from the community, he said, is what enables him to make it through such painful and emotional days. (Our communal life at Sha'ar Zahav repeatedly affirms the wisdom of the talmudic idea that we not separate ourselves from our community.)

Treasurer Brett Trueman reported that, because considerably more than anticipated has been collected so far this year in both dues and High Holiday contributions, it is likely that we will have a surplus of approximately \$15,000 over this year's budget. He attributed our strong financial position to the recent restructuring of the dues schedule and to the High Holiday ticket policy. Next month, the Finance Committee will make suggestions on how this unexpected money should be invested.

The Va'ad then reviewed commitments suggested for individual Va'ad members by the Long Range Planning report. The board expressed general agreement with the idea that each Va'ad member should do the following: attend new member teas and/or chavurot and present information on leadership opportunities; continue and improve active "greeting" by leadership at services; and assume at least one leadership task beyond just attending Va'ad meetings.

Va'ad members were concerned that already full schedules left little time to fulfill other Long Range Planning suggestions, such as board members writing occasional columns for the *Forward*, and joining additional synagogue committees. Allan suggested that Va'ad members visit unfamiliar committees once in a while so that each member can have a better understanding of the synagogue as a whole.

Committee reports began with the presentation of two families by Judy Schwartz; the Va'ad approved them for

membership. Ellen Gierson has been doing an enormous amount of work as building chair. She announced that our building has been inspected for fire safety and she will look into concerns about the fire safety of our new "sephardi" seating arrangement in the sanctuary. The Va'ad granted approval for Ellen to hire a structural engineer to inspect our building for earthquake safety, as well.

Because our current sound system is inadequate and likely to break down soon, Ellen suggested the purchase of a new system for our sanctuary. Ellen had priced a variety of systems, and, on her recommendation, the Va'ad allocated up to \$1000 from the Building Fund toward the purchase of a new sound system.

Ellen also explained that, six years ago, plans were drawn up to finish the office manager's office, but because of lack of funds, these plans were never pursued. Ellen emphasized the importance of creating a better work space in that office, and offered a detailed description of the necessary renovations and expenses. The Va'ad appointed Brett Trueman and Claudia Bernard to review Ellen's suggestions, to look into a possible concurrent renovation of the rabbi's office and also to consider a policy about hiring union and/or lesbian/gay labor. The Va'ad will reconsider these renovations next month. Many members of the Va'ad expressed how impressed they were with Ellen's work in all of these matters, and thanked her.

Carolyn Pines, High Holiday co-chair, reported that High Holiday services went very smoothly. Carolyn had the following thoughts for next year:

- The Unitarian Center, in her view, is the ideal location for High Holiday services.
- Childcare should involve Jewish content, not just babysitting.
- Perhaps there should be a flat rate for non-member tickets.
- It was a good idea to require members to request guest tickets, rather than automatically sending them to all members.
- We should promote tickets in such a way that more members observe the ticket deadline.

Many members of the Va'ad expressed their thanks to Carolyn for her hard

work. On behalf of the Va'ad, Claudia expressed thanks to Nathan Robinson, Betty Kalis, and Scott Mezistrano for their wonderful work on High Holidays.

Allan Gold, our president, reported that the Bikkur Cholim committee will be honored at services on November 15. In addition, Dana Vinicoff will be honored for her years of directing the ensemble on December 6. Allan also suggested that we sponsor a theater party to see member Henry Mach's play, "Dirty Dreams of a Clean-Cut Kid" at Josie's Juice Joint in the Castro. Lisa Katz moved that we have such a party on Sunday, December 1, and the motion was approved.

Sanford Friedman and Jerry Hipps, chairmen of the Chanukah party, sought the Va'ad's advice on whether the party should be held at McAteer High School, the Millberry Union, or the Handicapped Recreation Center. After considerable discussion, focusing on the advantages of an attractive setting versus the presence of cooking facilities, the Va'ad demurred and decided to leave the question up to Jerry and Sanford.

After an evaluation of our meeting, we adjourned with the singing of *Oseh Shalom*.

—Kathy Simon, Recorder

Blood Drive

Continued from page 1

This year's event was smaller than in the past due in part to the leadership turnover of the Women's Chavurah; however, 25 dedicated souls did come by. Both a new coordinator and volunteers to help with the phone tree are needed for next year.

A special treat was to have one of our own members working for Irwin that day. As always, the shmooze room was a special place for socializing and sampling chocolate chip cookies from the (Steve) Elman kitchen. Thanks also to Allan Gold, Susan Greenspan, Alita Rosenfeld and Kate Sharp, head shmoozers. Any questions during the year regarding accessing our account can be directed to the office or to Jonathan Goldman (641-4231). Thanks to all who participated.

—Jonathan Goldman

Contributions

Sha'ar Zahav welcomes all contributions, of all sizes, to mark any event, and to any of our funds. Contributions will be acknowledged in the *Forward* unless requested otherwise.

Donations were made to Sha'ar Zahav's funds in the past months by the following contributors:

General Fund

We encourage donations to the General Fund in particular to help offset our budget deficit.

Betty Kalis, in honor of Scott Mezistrano and Carolyn Pines for their work on High Holy Days

David Wasserman, in memory of Jay Feinstein

Walt Leiss, in honor of Rabbi Kahn and Dan Bellm for the arrival of their son; in honor of Shirley Liberman for her outstanding job in catering the High Holidays onegs; in honor of Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel for the adoption of their son, Shawn; in honor of Nancy Meyer for her interesting High Holiday sermon; in honor of David Stein, Irene Ogus, and Betty Kalis for their High Holiday pushke pitches

Carol Cohen

Eli Weinstein, in memory of Frank Hyman

David Wasserman

Daniel Chesir and Stefan Rowniak, in memory of Frank Hyman

Betty and Bernie Miller, thanking the congregation for their loving support

Steve Elman and Tom Holt, in honor of the ritual committee and the High Holiday coordinators; in memory of Bill Schlichter, Frank Hyman, Jeff Statnick, and Ruth Gelmis, mother of Susan Gelmis; in honor of Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel on the adoption of Shawn

Julliette Schlesinger, in memory of Gilbert Koshover, father of Sherie Koshover

Simma Lieberman, in memory of her mother and father, Mollie and Abraham Lieberman

Claudia Bernard and Howard

Herman, in honor of Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel's adoption of Shawn; in honor of Scott Mezistrano, Carolyn Pines, Betty Kalis and

Nathan Robinson for their coordination of High Holiday services
Ami Zusman, in memory of Hadassah Weisman

AIDS Fund

Ron Lezell, in memory of Frank Hyman
Jay Ladin
Isabel Fishman

Bikkur Cholim Fund

Susan Stahl, in honor of Eric and Aaron Cooper-Keitel on the adoption of Shawn

Kaiser Brunch Fund

David Stein and Alex Ingersoll, in honor of Janet Sims, David Budd, and Elizabeth Corner's offering to play at Frank Hyman's funeral

Allan Berenstein, in honor of Janet Sims, David Budd, and Elizabeth Corner's offering to play at Frank Hyman's funeral

Library Fund

Steve Gaynes, in memory of Conrad Reny

Rabbi's Discretionary Fund

Walt Leiss, in honor of Rabbi Kahn
Susan Stahl, in memory of Bill Schlichter
Betty Kalis, with thanks to Rabbi Kahn

Interreligious AIDS Coalition

The San Francisco Interreligious Coalition on AIDS has elected its founding board of directors. The coalition is made up of over 200 religiously based networks, congregations, agencies and individuals involved in the epidemic throughout the Bay Area.

"We are committed to supporting all of those involved in the epidemic and will present a positive voice on AIDS coming from the religious community. We are extremely grateful to Catholic Charities, San Francisco, for their encouragement and support in making this coalition possible," said Hertz, board president and chair.

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High Holiday Thanks

The High Holidays have long since passed, but their magic and beauty will inspire many of us throughout this new year, 5752. To all who attended services and participated in High Holiday celebrations—thanks for sharing in the spirituality of the season and showing your support for the congregation. To those whose dedication and hard work enabled all of us to enjoy the High Holidays at Sha'ar Zahav, we extend our deepest gratitude. Your volunteer efforts are profoundly appreciated.

Service leaders and gabbais (includes Sukkot and Simchat Torah): Tiela Chalmers, Daniel Chesir, Jonathan Funk, Susan Gelmis, Jane Graeven, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Joshua Lee, Judith Linzer, Henry Mach, Frank Masson, Scott Mezistrano, Jose Luis Moscovich, Ora Prochovnick, Nathan Robinson, Claire Sherman, Kathy Simon, Nancy Snow, Susan Sobel-Feldman, Susan Unger, Dana Vinicoff, Rebecca Weiner, Steve Weitz, Larry Wexler.

Ba'alei k'riah (Torah and Haftorah chanting): Bill Ashley-Dobbin, Daniel Chesir, Judith Linzer, Scott Mezistrano, Ora Prochovnick, Judy Schwartz, Claire Sherman, Kathy Simon, Richard Sinkoff, Dana Vinicoff, Frank Yellin.

Ba'alei t'kiah (Shofar sounding): Don Albert, Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Ron Lezell, Scott Mezistrano, Gordon Osser, Richard Sinkoff, David Stein, Marion Trentman, Dana Vinicoff.

Lay sermonizers: Henry Mach, Nancy Meyer, Larry Wexler.

High Holiday pitches: Daniel Chesir, Betty Kalis, Irene Ogus, David Stein.

Musical quartet: Jose Luis Moscovich (director), Helen Cohen, Michele Sullivan, Steve Weitz.

Ticket administration: Betty Kalis (coordinator), Dianne Hawk, Lisa Katz, Nancy Meyer.

Participation and honors coordination: Steve Weitz.

Participant rehearsals/audio tape coordination: Dana Vinicoff.

High Holiday general arrangements: Gary Sokol.

Shofar blowing class: Marion Trentman.

Overflow room monitors: Alison Cohen, Jeff Friedman, Jonathan Goldman, Eve Meyer, Donna Rabinowitz.

Oneg and break fast donations: Walt Leiss.

Second day Rosh Hashanah oneg donation: Sherie Koshover.

Oneg administration: Shirley Liberman and Judith Cohen (coordinators), Rebecca Doctors-Cohen, Shelley Eisenman, Fran Kipnis, George Lucas, Eileen Levy, Jonah Levy, Nancy Meyer, Julie Moed, Marilyn O'Keeffe, Nathan Robinson, Sharyn Saslafsky, Judy Schwartz, Eric, Lisa, and several others whose names we can't remember but whose efforts we won't forget.

Donation of flowers: Ron Miguel, House of Flowers.

Children's services: Rebecca Weiner (leader), Emily Tincer (coordinator).

Advertising and public relations: Sharyn Saslafsky.

AIDS Food Bank coordination: Florence and Steven Nacamulli.

Ushers: Nathan Robinson (head usher), Jesse ApNeva & Nina Wouk, Alison Cohen, Paul Cohen, Lynn Eden & Ruth Schoenbach, Robin Eig & Alane Freund, Steve Elman, Nancy Facher, Roslyn Fuerman & Katy Gulley, Jerry Geffner, Howard Goldberg, Lawrence Hyman, Allyce Kimmerling, Josh Lee, Eileen & Jonah Levy, David Lopes, Julie Moed, Jacob Robinson, Margaret Rosoff, Jeffrey Rubin, Richard A.R. Shoemaker, Eric Temple, Sylvia Weisenberg, Eric Weiss,

Jim Wilson, and Michael Zimmerman.

Membership and donations table: Judy Schwartz (coordinator), Judy Graboyes, Stephan Howard, Mark Miller, Hal Podgur, Alita Rosenfeld, Ben Schalit, Josh Schechtel, Michele Sullivan, Brett Trueman, Steve Unger.

Sound Equipment: Randy Schiller.

Child care helpers: Rebecca Doctors-Cohen, Sonia Elizabeth Douglass, Katy Gulley, Ida Kuluk, Rachael Maclachlan, Jeanette Nichols, and Diana Buchbinder who got things started before moving to Seattle.

Discussion groups: Rabbi Yoel Kahn, Ron Lezell.

Sukkot coordination: Steve Elman.

Sukkot hospitality: Allan Gold and Gary Glasser, Rabbi Yoel Kahn and Dan Bellm.

Sukkah builders: Steve Elman, Sanford Friedman, Allan Gold, Jerry Hipps, Tom Holt, Lisa Katz.

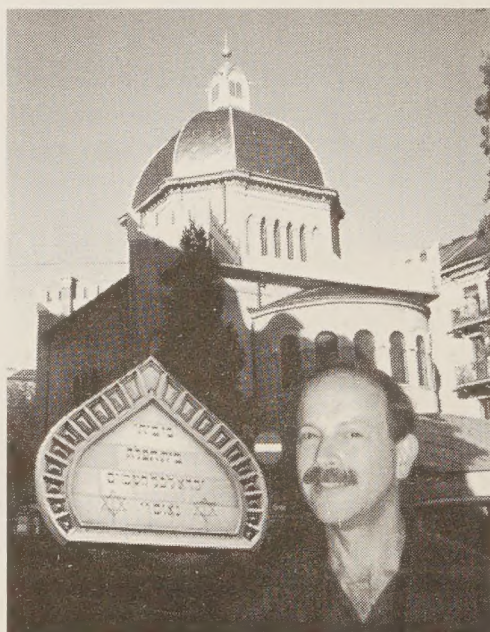
Blood drive coordinators: Jonathan Goldman, Kate Sharp.

Cemetery visit coordinators: Paul Cohen, Richard Inlander.

Special thanks and recognition to Rabbi Yoel Kahn, CSZ officers and members of the Va'ad, CSZ office manager Mark Pressler, and Jeffrey Miller, of blessed memory, for all their support, helping us prepare for the holidays.

We realize we may have inadvertently overlooked the names of others who contributed time and enthusiasm to making the High Holidays so special. We regret these omissions, and ask that you accept our gratitude for all your hard work.

—Carolyn Pines and Scott Mezistrano,
High Holiday coordinators



Newsletter chair Howard Blechman near the main synagogue in Geneva this past October. PHOTO BY CHRIS FREEMAN

Chanukah Hop

Continued from page 1
synagogue office. Your imagination and generosity will make this year's Chanukah party an enjoyable, fun-filled evening for all.

Mark December 7 on your calendar and plan to attend the Chanukah party. Children's activities are being planned by the Children's Chavurah and will begin at 6:30. Everyone is welcome. Childcare will be available when activities for adults begin at 8 pm.

Library Notes

Gifts and Bequests

Books

Our library has greatly expanded through Bill Schlichter's bequest of his collection of Judaica. If you were looking for something we didn't have, you may find it now. Our collection of *sid-durim* has been doubled and our selections on Judaism, philosophy, and language have many new additions. You will now find a more complete selection of titles by Abraham Joshua Heschel, to name one author, and a better selection of Hebrew/English dictionaries and lexicons.

Bill Schlichter's collection of books and brochures on synagogue architecture and history from all over the world has been donated to the Blumenthal Rare Book and Manuscript Library at the Judah Magnes Museum in Berkeley. They were very happy to have this collection of hard-to-get material, which is more appropriate to their library than ours.

Video and Audio Tapes

New to our shelves is a collection of videos, left to us largely by Bill, but also including some videos that we have had but have not displayed. Our collection of audio tapes, again augmented by Bill's bequest, will be made more available for members to check out. These may be checked out in the same manner as our books. We thank Ron Lezell for his gift of two Shalom Sesame videos. Bill has also left us a television set and video, which will be installed on a rolling cart and may be used for classes and meetings.

—Ed Tanovitz

Xmas Already?

It's not too early to start making your December holiday plans. This Christmas Day and Christmas Eve, members and friends of Sha'ar Zahav will once again cook and deliver meals for Project Open Hand. In past years, this Bikkur Cholim committee program has proven an extremely rewarding experience for all who participated. It's a wonderful way to be Jewish at Christmas, while performing a much-appreciated mitzvah.

Mark your calendars now and watch for the sign-up form to be included in next month's *Forward*.

Synagogue Information

Rabbi Yoel Kahn

Officers:

President, Allan Gold
Administrative Vice President,
 Claudia Bernard
Program Vice President,
 Tiela Chalmers
Treasurer, Brett Trueman
Recorder, Kathy Simon

Va'ad (Board) Members:

Phil Charney
 Daniel Chesir
 Steve Elman
 Lisa Katz
 Ida Kuluk
 Nathan Robinson
 Judy Schwartz
 Susan Unger

Office Personnel:

Manager, Mark Pressler

Committee Chairs:

Archivist, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Bikkur Cholim, by committee
Brotherhood, Eric Keitel
Building, Ellen Gierson
Bylaws, Edward Pollock
Cemetery, Richard Inlander
Children's Chavurah, Audrey
 Adelson & Joan Lefkowitz
Cookbook Project, Robin Leonard
Dues, David Stein & Ron Lezell
Education, Bill Ashley-Dobbin
Finance, by committee
Gift Shop, Jeff Rubin

Israel Chavurah, Ron Lezell
Long-Range Planning, Tiela Chalmers
 & Daniel Chesir
Membership, Judy Schwartz
Newsletter, Howard Blechman
Oneg, by committee
Past Presidents Council, Don Albert
Personnel, Claudia Bernard
Public Relations, Sharyn Saslowsky
Religious School, Mary Morgan &
 Diana Buchbinder
Ritual, Larry Wexler
Social Action, Jonathan Mesinger
 & Lisa Katz
Social Program, Marc Mencher
Volunteer Coordinator, Robin Leonard
Women's Chavurah, Ann Biderman

Office Hours: Mon. 8–5; Tues. 8–4:30;
 Wed., Thu. 8–2:30; Fri. 8–3. Phones will be
 answered Mon.–Fri. 10–2.

Services are held every Friday evening
 beginning at 8:15 pm (except as noted),
 with an Oneg Shabbat following services.
 Services are generally held on the second
 and last Saturday of each month at 10:30
 am—check calendar for each month.

Library Hours: Open during office hours,
 and 30 minutes before and after Friday
 night services.

Gift Shop Hours: Mondays 5–6:15 pm;
 Fridays, 7:30–8:05 pm

Emergency Number: In an emergency,
 the Congregation can be contacted outside
 of office hours by calling 420-9718.

Member of the Union of American Hebrew
 Congregations (Mike Rankin, Allyce Kimer-
 ling, Liaisons) and of the World Congress of
 Gay and Lesbian Jewish Organi-
 zations (Eric Keitel, Liaison).

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav (Congrega-
 tion of the Golden Gate) is located in the
 Upper Market District of San Francisco at
 220 Danvers at Caselli, which is one block
 south of the intersection of 18th and Market
 streets. By public transport, take MUNI bus
 33 Stanyan to 18th and Danvers and walk
 one block south on Danvers to Caselli.

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NOVEMBER

חשוון-כסלו

1 Friday
24 Heshvan
• 8:15pm, Shabbat services

2 Saturday
25 Heshvan
• 9:30am, Kadimah

3 Sunday
26 Heshvan

4 Monday
27 Heshvan

5 Tuesday
28 Heshvan
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

6 Wednesday
29 Heshvan
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life

7 Thursday
30 Heshvan
• 7pm, Children's Education Committee meeting
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

8 Friday
1 Kislev
• 6:30pm, HIV Group Dinner
• 8:15pm, Shabbat services

9 Saturday
2 Kislev
• 9:30am, Kadimah
• 10:30am, Family service

10 Sunday
3 Kislev

11 Monday
4 Kislev
• 6:30pm, Va'ad meeting

12 Tuesday
5 Kislev
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

13 Wednesday
6 Kislev
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life
• 7:30pm, Newsletter Editing meeting, 1711 Castro

14 Thursday
7 Kislev
• 7pm, Adult Education Committee meeting
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action
• 7:30pm, Trip to Israel meeting
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

15 Friday
8 Kislev
• 8:15pm, Shabbat services

16 Saturday
9 Kislev
• 9:30am, Kadimah

17 Sunday
10 Kislev
• Gimel/Dalet Field Trip (tent.)
• 11:30am, Dues Committee

18 Monday
11 Kislev

19 Tuesday
12 Kislev
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism
• 7:30pm, Newsletter Layout meeting, 1711 Castro
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

20 Wednesday
13 Kislev
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life

21 Thursday
14 Kislev
• 7pm, Ritual Committee meeting
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action
• 7:30pm, Bikkur Cholim Committee meeting
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

22 Friday
15 Kislev
• 8:15pm, Shabbat services
• 8:15pm, East Bay services

23 Saturday
16 Kislev
• 9:30am, Kadimah Parent's meeting

24 Sunday
17 Kislev
• 10:30am, Kaiser Brunch at Kaiser Hospital

25 Monday
18 Kislev

26 Tuesday
19 Kislev
• 7:15pm, Introduction to Judaism
• 8pm, Rituals ... Daily Life
• 8:30pm, Prayerbook Hebrew

27 Wednesday
20 Kislev
• 7:30pm, Sickness and Health ... Jewish Life

28 Thursday
21 Kislev
Thanksgiving Day
• 7pm, Judaism and Social Action
• 8:30pm, Yiddish class

29 Friday
22 Kislev
• 8:15pm, Shabbat services

30 Saturday
23 Kislev
• No Kadimah
• 10:30am, Shabbat services

Note: Gray areas indicate religious services.

Dr. Diane Sabin

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Anniversaries

13 Pamela Ruskin & Suzanne E. Shimek
16 Marianne Camp & Ellen R. Giersen
26 Marilyn Kalman & Marta Wohl
26 Amy Markowitz & Robert Wachter

☆☆☆☆☆☆☆☆